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General Assembly

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Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Organization of work

Note by the Chair

I. Subsidiary bodies

1. During its previous sessions, the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples conducted its work by considering the items before it directly at its plenary meetings. In recent years, the Special Committee has succeeded in keeping the number of its formal meetings to a minimum through increasing reliance on informal consultations, including by the Bureau, for the consideration of some of the issues before it.

2. The Chair recommends that the Special Committee continue to use informal meetings as much as possible. As warranted, the Chair would consult with the Bureau on urgent and/or specific issues relevant to the work of the Committee.

II. Allocation of items and procedure for consideration

3. Annexed to the present note is a list of pending matters for consideration by the Special Committee in 2018. It includes decisions adopted by the Special Committee, together with an indication of the procedure that the Committee may wish to adopt for each item. In this regard, the Chair would like to draw the particular attention of the Committee to paragraph 8 (d) of General Assembly resolution 72/111, in which the Special Committee was requested to develop and finalize, as soon as possible and in cooperation with the administering Power and the Territory in question, a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories, to facilitate the implementation of the mandate of the Committee and the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories.

4. The Special Committee should take into account the resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its seventy-second session that are relevant to the work of the Committee, as listed in the note by the Secretary-General on the subject (A/AC.109/2018/L.1). It is also understood that the Committee should be

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guided by General Assembly resolution 65/119, in which Member States were called upon to intensify their efforts to continue to implement the plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (A/56/61, annex) and to cooperate with the Committee in updating it as necessary, with a view to using it as the basis for a plan of action for the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

III. Order of priority for consideration of items

5. The Chair will hold consultations with regard to the order of priority to be given to the consideration of items in plenary meetings and on specific activities envisaged under the plan of action for the Third International Decade.

6. The Special Committee will take up, as appropriate, items with regard to the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable.

7. In the meantime, it is suggested that the Special Committee conduct its substantive work in accordance with the schedule of meetings contained in the annex to the present note.

IV. Recommendations of the Special Committee to the General Assembly

8. In accordance with established practice, it is suggested that the Special Committee continue to formulate its decisions in the same format as those of the General Assembly and to submit them to the Assembly at its seventy-third session. The Special Committee may also wish to recommend that its Rapporteur continue to follow the established format of its annual report and, once completed, submit it directly to the Assembly.

V. Utilization of conference-servicing resources

9. At its seventy-second session, the General Assembly decided to waive rules 67 and 108 of its rules of procedure in order to permit meetings to be declared open and debates to proceed without the presence of the quorum required under those rules. The Assembly also decided that morning meetings should begin at 10 a.m.

10. As those measures have further enhanced the effective utilization of conference-servicing resources, it is suggested that the Special Committee continue to follow the same procedure. It should be understood that, in accordance with the rules cited, the presence of a majority of the members would continue to be required for any decisions to be taken.

Annex

A. Pending matters for consideration by the Special Committee during 2018

Question	*Procedure for consideration*
Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories (General Assembly resolutions 2911 (XXVII) and 72/111, para. 8 (h), and decision 37/421)	As appropriate
Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (General Assembly resolution 65/119 and annex to the report of the Secretary-General on the Second International Decade (A/56/61))	
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations and related questions (General Assembly resolution 72/91)	As a separate item
Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories (General Assembly resolution 72/92)	
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (General Assembly resolution 72/93)	
Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories (General Assembly resolution 72/94)	
Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (General Assembly resolution 58/316, annex, sect. D, para. 4 (b))	
Gibraltar (General Assembly decision 72/520)	
Western Sahara (General Assembly resolution 72/95)	
American Samoa (General Assembly resolution 72/96)	
Anguilla (General Assembly resolution 72/97)	
Bermuda (General Assembly resolution 72/98)	
British Virgin Islands (General Assembly resolution 72/99)	
Cayman Islands (General Assembly resolution 72/100)	
French Polynesia (General Assembly resolution 72/101)	
Guam (General Assembly resolution 72/102)	
Montserrat (General Assembly resolution 72/103)	
New Caledonia (General Assembly resolution 72/104)	

Question	*Procedure for consideration*
Pitcairn (General Assembly resolution 72/105)	
Saint Helena (General Assembly resolution 72/106)	
Tokelau (General Assembly resolution 72/107)	
Turks and Caicos Islands (General Assembly resolution 72/108)	
United States Virgin Islands (General Assembly resolution 72/109)	
Sending visiting missions to Territories (General Assembly resolution 72/111, paras. 8 (e) and 10)	
Compliance of Member States with the Declaration and other relevant resolutions on decolonization (General Assembly resolution 72/111, para. 8 (b))	To be taken into consideration in the examination of specific Territories
Dissemination of information on decolonization (General Assembly resolution 72/110)	As appropriate
Special Committee decision concerning Puerto Rico (A/72/23, para. 35)	
Holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters	
List of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable	

B. Tentative programme of work and timetable of the Special Committee

Thursday, 22 February (1 meeting)	Organization of work
To be determined (1 meeting)	Organization of the forthcoming Pacific regional seminar
Monday, 11 June, morning (1 meeting)	Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations
	Dissemination of information on decolonization
	Question of sending visiting missions to Territories
	Question of Gibraltar
	Question of Western Sahara
Monday, 11 June, afternoon (1 meeting)	Informal consultations
Tuesday, 12 June (1 meeting)	Informal consultations

Wednesday, 13 June (1 meeting)	Informal consultations
Thursday, 14 June (1 meeting)	Informal consultations
Friday, 15 June	*Official holiday*
Monday, 18 June (2 meetings)	Special Committee decision of 19 June 2017 concerning Puerto Rico: hearing of petitioners
Tuesday, 19 June, morning (1 meeting)	Question of American Samoa
	Question of Anguilla
	Question of Bermuda
	Question of the British Virgin Islands
	Question of the Cayman Islands
	Question of Guam
	Question of Montserrat
	Question of Pitcairn
	Question of Saint Helena
	Question of the Turks and Caicos Islands
	Question of the United States Virgin Islands
	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations
	Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories
	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples
Tuesday, 19 June, afternoon (1 meeting)[a]	Informal consultations
Wednesday, 20 June (2 meetings)[a]	Informal consultations
Thursday, 21 June (1 meeting)	Question of French Polynesia
	Question of New Caledonia
	Question of Tokelau
	Report of the Pacific regional seminar

Friday, 22 June (2 meetings)	Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)[b] Report of the Special Committee: adoption of recommendations

[a] Interpretation services provided on an as-available basis.
[b] A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).